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A LETTER

TO THE

RT. HON. SIR GEORGE GREY, BART., M.P.

HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
HOME DEPARTMENT, &c., &c., &c.

ON

MEDICAL REGISTRATION,

AND THE PRESENT CONDITION

OF THE

MEDICAL CORPORATIONS.

SECOND EDITION.

WITH NOTES AND ABSTRACT OF A PROPOSED GENERAL MEDICAL

REGISTRATION ACT,

BY

LEMERITUS.

Μεγα βιβλιον μεγα κακον.

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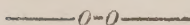
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P R E F A C E.



IN the following Letter, an endeavour has been made to bring under your notice the present disorganized state of the Medical Profession—its Colleges, Halls, and Universities, with the view of inculcating and showing that there is a public necessity for, and a prevailing feeling in favour of an immediate Registration of that important body of professional men; and when we consider that ships and vessels, and every craft that sails, are registered and numbered,—that masters, mates, and mariners in the mercantile and naval marine are registered,—that births, deaths, and marriages in England and Wales are registered,—that assurances upon titles and deeds affecting real property are registered in Scotland, and to be registered in England, and all undertaken for the purpose of promoting and protecting the interests of the Public, does it not, then become an important omission, if they should continue to be deprived of the advantages that may be realised by the adoption of a judicious system of general Medical Registration, which can be carried out with the greatest facility, and at little expense to the country?

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

SIR,—Medical Education, more extended in its provisions, and accompanied by greater stringency in its examinations; a complete and well arranged-system of Medical Registration, with amendments in the laws by which the numerous Medical Corporations are governed and its members at present so dissatisfied, involving, as they do, principles and alterations much desired and urgently called for, as being of the greatest importance to the interests of the profession and the welfare of the public, and which have long occupied your serious and best attention without success, as also that of your predecessor in office,—every proposal hitherto submitted and advocated having ended in bringing forth an abortion incapable of being adopted, owing to the many conflicting and discordant opinions maintained and cherished by the different branches of the medical profession, each with distinct and rival claims and privileges, under a multitude of variously-named corporate bodies, who are all too anxious to retain every legal right they now possess, and even solicitous for more; but too fearful lest, by any change in the confused state of medical law and government that now prevails, amendments accommodated to all the wants of the profession can only be introduced by such means, that the remodelling of one corporation must necessarily lead to the downfall of the other, this too-groundless fear very naturally gives rise to feelings of jealousy; and to its prevalence must be attributed the impossibility of any one party bringing

forward a uniform plan of amendment acceptable to the majority of the whole profession, the numerous deputations you have so courteously received, patiently and kindly listened to, from the general practitioners, the Council and Court of Examiners of the Medical Corporations, must have brought conviction to your mind that there is, unfortunately, too much of truth in this assertion, and have disheartened you and others, though anxious for the advancement of the profession, from submitting to Parliament any mode of relief until the great body of the medical faculty are more agreed among themselves upon the measures they may wish to see sanctioned by new legal enactments, that it seems almost presumptuous in an individual no longer connected with that learned body, proposing and advocating any change by which their attainments will be increased, their utility enlarged, and character elevated; at the same time that the public will be protected from the injury that must always and of necessity be associated with the presence of ignorant and unqualified medical practitioners exercising their craft among and upon the community, to whom no facilities whatever are now afforded for ascertaining the legal qualifications of their medical attendants, whether they possess any or none; and this information can only be easily furnished by the establishment in the metropolis of a central public office, for the purpose of carrying out, through its agency, a complete and compulsory system of Medical Registration for the United Kingdom and its Colonies.

In order to apply, and enable you to comprehend, the appropriate remedy for the disorder by which the medical body politic is so much afflicted, it is requisite to enumerate the symptoms of the malady from which it sustains injury; these are of a most anomalous kind, difficult to comprehend, erroneous in principle, and contradictory in their character, the medical man, pronounced by law, in full health and vigour in England, being found labouring under disease, and incapable of performing any of his usual functions, whenever he presumes to practise his art in Scotland, and *vice versâ*; the gentleman qualified to wield the lancet, and administer medicines in Scotland, so soon as he crosses the Border,

must sheath his weapon, and dare not make a charge for the smallest quantity of medicine, if he has any fear of the penalties that may be extorted under the provisions of the Apothecaries Act of 1815, which likewise inflicts the same injustice upon their medical brethren from the Sister Kingdom.* The rivalries and forays between the divisions of this now happily United Kingdom have wisely and luckily, for the peace of Society, long ceased in every respect, but among the professors of the healing art; and the day must soon dawn when that will also terminate.

The symptoms of the case may be classified under the following heads:—

1st Cap. The qualified class, connected with corporate bodies possessing the power to confer medical degrees and licenses to practice; these are so many, that few even of the profession are well versed in all their varied curricula of study, requirements, titles, and privileges, while the great mass of the deeply-interested public are profoundly ignorant on the subject, and of the titles and rights that are granted and conveyed by their several Charters of Incorporation. In England, the Medical Corporations to which they belong are,—

* The Apothecaries' Act of 1815, also deprives the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy, entering subsequent to its passing, of the right to practise, when unemployed in the public service, which privilege was granted to them by the Act of Queen Anne, and which they had enjoyed, free from all dispute, up to the reign of George III., its injustice has been mitigated as far as possible by the Apothecaries' Company, having resolved never to prosecute these parties, who are, however, placed by the alteration of the law, in this unfortunate position, that they cannot enforce payment from the public for their services, and may be prosecuted with success by any one of them. As Queen Anne bestowed originally this right, an opportunity is now open to our most gracious and excellent Queen Victoria, of carrying out her intentions, by restoring the boon which had been so considerately conceded by her distinguished predecessor, and which was through inadvertence, taken away in 1815.

1. Royal College of Physicians, consisting of seven elects, fellows, candidates, inceptor candidates, licentiates, and extra licentiates, under a president and three censors, who constitute the examining board for the license; for the extra license the examiners are the president and three elects.

NOTE.—The Charter of the London College of Physicians excludes every one from practising as physicians attending upon cases purely medical, in London, and seven miles around. The jurisdiction of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is said to extend to the right of practising medicine throughout the whole realm with the exception of the London district. The privileges arising from admission into the college, are not limited to this district, but extend over England and Wales. Licentiates and extra licentiates, have no voice in the direction of the affairs of the college, and the latter are prohibited from practising in the London district.

2. Royal College of Surgeons, consisting of fellows and members, or licentiates, under a president, council, and court of examiners.

NOTE.—London College of Surgeons grants no legal right worth possessing. Its diploma is only an honorary distinction in surgery, and its handmaid anatomy and physiology; by itself, it constitutes the lowest professional qualification of any in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The College, by straining and striving to be the only one devoted to the advancement of pure surgery, sends forth more unqualified practitioners, inflicts more public injury, and encourages idleness to a greater degree among medical students than any of the medical corporations. Its examination is too much restricted, its diploma too easily obtained; and with that document alone, owing to the non-enforcement of the law, which if strictly enforced would be unjust, large numbers are pursuing their professional avocations in all its branches, although only examined in a few. It is necessary that that College, if it continues to limit its examinations, should be barred from granting its diploma to any person who has not passed the examinations in medicine, chemistry, midwifery, etc., as required by other medical institutions and surgical colleges; until that is carried out,

its diploma should be, what it was originated and intended for, viz., an honorary distinction in surgery only, without any right to practise generally, to which latter purpose it has been, and continues to be very extensively and illegally applied.

3. Apothecaries' Hall, consisting of a Board of Examiners, members, and licentiates, and as contemplated by the Act (clauses defective of assistants) with a master and two wardens, professors of chemistry, botany, and materia medica.

NOTE.—Members of the Hall are those who constitute the incorporated Society, and participate in the profits from the trade, wholesale and retail, in drugs and chemicals, carried on by the Company, they are few in number, and from this very limited body must the examiners by their Act of Parliament be chosen, consequently, they have never been the ornaments of the profession, or distinguished themselves by important discoveries in medicine, etc., or by works of deep scientific research; and if such persons had ever been desirous of the honor of being examiners, the Legislature has effectually prevented it by excluding licentiates, and limiting the extent of selection to Members only, to which powerful body, and not the governing authority of the Company, is the blame attributable.

Apothecaries' Company, London, is the only English Corporation that has the legal power of protecting their members in the exercise of their profession, its operation is limited to England and Wales, and extends over medical and surgical cases; physicians, and pure surgeons, being unable to recover by legal process their fees, which are regarded merely as honorary gratuities. The examination at the Hall, is strict and practical, forms an efficient protection to the public against ignorance, and constitutes in England, the great anxiety of medical students, who generally regard the examination of the London College of Surgeons with a very different kind of apprehension.

4. University of London.	} Consisting of Bachelors and Doctors of Me- dicine.
5. University of Oxford.	
University of Cambridge.	

7. University of Durham.—In suspensu.

In Scotland—1. University of Edinburgh, its chief managers and patrons, the town council or leading tradesmen of Edinburgh; the only university in the world managed by that method. 2. Ditto, Glasgow. 3. Ditto, Aberdeen. 4. Ditto, St. Andrew's consisting of doctors of medicine only. 5. Royal College of Physicians. 6. College of Surgeons, Edinburgh. 7. Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. 8. Diploma in Surgery of the College and University of Glasgow. No Apothecaries' Hall.

NOTE.—The privileges of the Edinburgh College of Physicians, are limited to the old town of Edinburgh, and the jurisdiction of the college does not extend beyond the walls of the ancient city, with power to censure, suspend, and even to expel its unprofessional members.

College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, licenses to attend upon medical and surgical cases, and recover charges for medicine; its jurisdiction extends over eight counties in Scotland only, as surgeons, and apothecaries. The counties are—Three Lothians, Berwickshire, Peebleshire, Selkirkshire, Roxburgh, and Fife; but its privileges are not practically enforced. Faculty of Physicians, and Surgeons, Glasgow, have the same exclusive jurisdiction over four counties in Scotland;—viz., Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Ayr and Dumbarton; and according to the evidence (Parliamentary) of Dr. Christian, Professor of Materia Medica, in the University of Edinburgh, their privileges have of late years, and are to this moment enforced—there are members for the city, and for the general district.

In Ireland.—1. University of Dublin, consisting of bachelors and doctors of medicine. 2. Queen's University. 3. King's and Queen's College of Physicians. 4. Royal College of Surgeons. 5. Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin.

NOTE.—King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Dublin, licenses to practise in medical cases in Dublin, and within seven miles thereof, by the charter all physicians attached to county infirmaries and prisons, must possess the license of the college.

College of Surgeons, Ireland—its fellows and licentiates are

said to be qualified to practise as surgeons in any part of the British dominions.

Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, licenses to practise in medical and surgical cases, as surgeons, apothecaries, and to recover charges for medicines in Ireland. Many of the public appointments in that island, exclude every one with English and Scotch medical qualifications, no person being eligible to hold them, who have not the double qualification of the Hall and College of Surgeons, Ireland.

The legal privileges granted by the Medical Degrees of the Universities in London, Scotland and Ireland, are scarcely known; they are believed to be only honorary distinctions in medicine.

In the United Kingdom, it has been shown from the foregoing enumeration, that there are to be found (excluding the University of Durham) nineteen medical institutions, with thirty-six or more differently named orders of members, by which it is rendered an exceedingly difficult task, if not an impossibility, to ascertain and test the qualifications of medical men, except by the adoption, of one uniform and universal system of registration, in one place, for the whole realm. They are generally known, in the largest cities, as physicians,* pure surgeons, surgeons, and apothecaries, or general practitioners, when the two last qualifications are combined. In the country and small towns, only physicians, and surgeons are known; the former for consultation the latter for general practice.

NOTE.—Physicians practising as physicians only, in cases purely medical; some belong to the Royal Colleges of Physicians, while others are practising on the credit of a British, or some worthless foreign purchased medical degree, the latter impudently styling themselves physicians without any legal right to the title.

Pure surgeons, practising simply as surgeons, in purely surgical cases, as Sir B. Brodie, Mr. Guthrie, Lawrence, etc. and Professor Syme, in Edinburgh, who is said to be the only one in all Scotland.

Surgeons, members of some one of the colleges of surgeons

only, yet practising illegally in medical cases in England. They are a numerous class, and in it are comprised numbers of graduates in medicine, who prefix to their names doctor, and add surgeon, etc., without any right to the latter designation. They practise generally, although illegally, throughout the whole realm.

Apothecaries only, yet always calling themselves surgeons. etc., never apothecaries, except when forced into the *Gazette*, as bankrupts. They practise legally, although they assume illegally, the name of surgeons.

General practitioners, when possessing the Hall and College qualifications, or in practice before 1815, among the latter are included many, that a stranger would conclude must have been infants at that period, if his opinion and judgment had been formed by their appearance of juvenility.

To these corporations they are admitted members by complying with their curriculum of study, and passing the examinations; the former, for the most part, consists in having been engaged from four to five years in acquiring professional knowledge by an apprenticeship, or otherwise, attendance upon Lectures and Hospital practice at the recognised medical schools. Some of these Institutions, namely, University of London, and Royal College of Surgeons, London, etc., are open to the students from every British school of medicine; while others, namely, Oxford, Cambridge, and the Scotch Universities, save St. Andrew's, are exclusive, and accessible only to those students, who enter to the classes of the Professors attached to the respective Universities, and who are also their Examiners.

NOTE.—University of Edinburgh admits of extra academical attendance upon lectures, to a certain extent, at rival medical schools not situated in Edinburgh, but will not recognise the certificates of lecturers in that city, who do not hold professors' chairs in the university itself, upon which point they are now at war, with their masters, the Town Council of Edinburgh, who have determined to put down the exclusive regulations of the University Professors, in which endeavour they have lately been supported by a decision

of the Court of Session, in Scotland, a majority of the judges being in their favor, this decision is intended to be appealed against, before the House of Lords; so reported in the *Edinburgh Advertiser* newspaper.

2nd Cap. The Unqualified Class, who are connected with no recognized institutions, and are not under the necessity of passing any examination; they consist of the chemists and druggists, dentists, aurists, cuppers, chiropodists, etc.

3rd Cap. The Irregular Class, consisting of the vampire tribe of quacks, bone-setters, nostrum-venders, etc. etc.

The abnormal signs or defects elicited by examining into the state of these corporate bodies, and its members, are,—

1st Defect,—and which appertains to and is inherited by all the medical corporations,—is the absence of the representative principle; the Council and Court of Examiners being self-elected, and for life, the members generally having no voice in the management of the affairs of the institutions to which they have been admitted: but, in spite of this close and now exploded system everywhere else, it must be confessed that the Colleges of Physicians, and Surgeons, London, have been honoured by the presence of some of the most distinguished and eminent members of the profession, among the Council and Court of Examiners. By the recent Charter granted to the latter Institution, a partial remedy has been devised, by giving the power of election into the council to about 300 of the members, who have been admitted, most by selection, and some by examination, into a new class, called the Fellows of the College.

NOTE.—It has been before explained, that nearly every person examined and admitted into the Apothecaries' Company, are excluded from admission to the Examining Board, etc. by the Act of 1815; but the Council of the College of Surgeons, London, prohibit the entrance of the greatest majority of surgeons, by their own Act, viz., a Bye-Law, which bars the entrance of any surgeon who practises midwifery, or pharmacy *id est.*, compounds his own medicines, or does not reside within twenty miles of London, by which monopolizing law, 999 out of every 1000 practising surgeons

are prevented from aspiring to the honor of election into the council, which may not very inappropriately be called the close preserve of a small knot of pure surgeons attached to the London hospitals. This is deemed a great hardship by the profession, and gives much dissatisfaction even to the pure provincial surgeons.

2nd Defect is, that the highest honour in medicine, the degree of Doctor Medicinæ, is usurped by the least medically educated individuals, so far as the test by examination on subjects exclusively medical are concerned. For instance, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge,—the degrees from which are much prized and esteemed by the higher classes, and generally sought after by physicians patronized by that order in society,—have nothing worthy of the name of a medical school attached to their colleges; and it has been given in evidence by their graduates, before a parliamentary committee, that their medical examination was almost nominal, consisting principally in reading a Latin Medical Thesis before the gentleman bedel; but to compensate for this deficiency, they must have taken the degrees in arts: this gives a polish to their manners, and a ready assurance, that finds them a favourable acceptance among the refined circles, as well as a more easy admission into the College of Physicians, London; good classical scholarship being held by that body in greater estimation than a knowledge on anatomy, medicine, and its collateral sciences; so stated by the late Sir D. Barry, a licentiate of the college.

NOTE.—Universities of Oxford and Cambridge cannot educate medical men—they can only confer medical degrees—but for medical instruction they are under the necessity of sending aspirants, for their medical honors, to the medical schools of Edinburgh, etc., yet they absurdly maintain a large staff of medical professors, although they have scarcely any pupils, for the sake of conferring, at each University, five degrees in medicine every two years. These Universities should either be true to the original charge imposed upon them, and amend their neglect by establishing at those renowned seats of learning, perfect medical schools, or they should lend their medical professors with their endowments, to medical schools, that require their aid and assist-

ance, and where they would be the useful and not merely the ornamental appendages of a university. Oxford has seven medical professorships; Cambridge, five; and some travelling medical fellowships in their gift, which are not open to the competition of as many medical students as their founders expected, and which would have been contended for by larger numbers than has happened, if the universities had not neglected, but had kept up their medical departments with the advancement of the times.

3rd Defect is, that the most searching of all the medical examinations, that of the University of London, which is continued on several occasions, and most extensive in its requirements, confers only honorary degrees. The graduates of that University cannot practice as physicians, without they obtain, in addition, the license of the College of Physicians; and if they enter into general practice, may be prosecuted under the Apothecaries' Act, and subjected to heavy penalties.

4th Defect is, that all the Scotch Universities confer the distinguished degree of doctor of medicine upon its alumni at too early a period of life; the students educated there receiving by a single examination, at twenty-one years of age, by four years' attendance, and on entering into practice, the honour that should be reserved for a later period; and not then, unless great additional knowledge has been acquired in the field of practical experience; in addition, their course of study is not so prolonged, or their examination more searching than that of the general practitioner in England, who has passed the College and Hall. Many of these graduates have been rejected at the latter place, in consequence of the want of a practical acquaintance with the drugs used in medicine; it is therefore doubly wrong to grant the highest honour on first embarking in the profession, or without a more strict examination and the greatest medical acquirements, as it is lowered in estimation thereby.

5th Defect. The compulsory apprenticeship of five years, ordered by the Apothecaries' Act, to a licentiate or some person in practice, before 1815; its duration is so long, and its name not being held in repute, it acts most unjustly upon the interests of

parties who have passed the days of youth, and wish to enter the profession of medicine; it forms an insurmountable barrier to their desires, forces them against their inclinations to break the law, or to abandon the profession; and its speedy removal is expected.

6th Defect. The limited examination of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, as it embraces only anatomy, physiology, and surgery, it enables candidates to obtain a diploma; under the sanction of which, without having passed any examination on many important branches of medical science, they impose upon the ignorance and credulity of the public in medical matters, and though imperfectly educated, and only half examined, they practice every branch of the profession, even in this country, but particularly in the Colonies, and on board of emigrant ships, to which they should never be appointed on the strength of the diploma of the London College; if this had been attended to, the surgeons attached to those vessels would have been of a more educated, and consequently superior class, and might have checked the disgraceful scenes reported to have lately occurred on board of those ships. It also has the injurious tendency of lowering the standard of medical education, and of causing many idle and ignorant students from Scotland and Ireland, to pass for Surgeons the College in England, who are tempted by the reduced scale of examination to avoid the more extensive one of the Scotch and Irish Colleges; and it is even said that their rejected candidates have subsequently passed, and found almost immediate admission into, the London College.

THE REMEDIAL MEASURES AND THEIR OBJECT.

1st Object should aim at establishing uniformity in the Medical Corporations of the three divisions of the kingdom, as they differ most in Scotland, where there is no Apothecaries' Hall; it is considered that the introduction there of a similar company will effect that object without any occasion for doing away with the

existing medical institutions ; these three Companies, or Colleges of Pharmacy being established, their powers over the general practitioners, as now exercised in England and Ireland, should be diminished ; but greatly extended over the chemists and druggists, of which body they should for the future have the principal oversight and management.

2nd Object. The necessity for the apprenticeship of five years, which must be completed for admission into the Apothecaries' Companies, should be abolished, and in lieu thereof a discretional pupilage of one or two years should be substituted ; but the apprenticeship should be strictly enforced for the chemist and druggist, to render him competent to carry on that business, as well as to check the discreditable practice that has of late years sprung up, of medical men in general practice keeping an open shop, and attending to a retail trade in drugs, perfumery, and even quack medicines.

3rd Object. The examinations should be more divided, passed at regular intervals, and should not embrace so many subjects at one time ; a full and perfect knowledge of the vast store of facts and theories comprised in all the subjects embraced by the present examinations being beyond the reach of even the most talented ; they are too frequently mastered, in a superficial manner, by a rapid process of reading up for the occasion, or by the aid of a class of teachers called Grinders, and not having been acquired by slow and continuous industry, are soon forgotten ; to these circumstances it is mainly to be attributed that the professors have so often complained that their most diligent pupils have not been complimented as much by their examiners as those who they have known to be less attentive to their studies. By frequent written and oral examinations on fewer subjects at a time, and a thorough acquaintance with them strictly insisted upon, this pernicious process and complaint will both be rectified.

1st Division of the examination to be conducted by each of the three Apothecaries' Companies, or colleges of pharmacy, to consist of Latin, as at present ordered ; which may take place at the conclusion of the pupilage, or at any time during the apprenticeship.

NOTE.—Acquaintance with French, German, and the mathematics, might be encouraged by rewards to the most advanced competitors, but non compulsory. If the examinations are made a reality on all the subjects that many suggest as necessary for medical men; who, they would have to possess the degrees of the doctorate of arts, as well that of the doctorate of medicine, a dearth of that order in society instead of the present overabundance, might soon be looked for; a sufficient number of individuals capable of mastering the extensive knowledge said to be essential by some theorists, and equal to the supply and demand of the public for physicians and surgeons, according to Mr. Guthrie, would not be forthcoming.

2nd Division. To comprehend botany, chemistry, and materia medica; which may be encountered at twenty years of age, and on being passed, to constitute (with the apprenticeship concluded) the qualification for the chemist and druggist.

3rd Division. To embrace medicine, midwifery, and medical jurisprudence, on attaining twenty-one years of age. The pupil having succeeded in going through this further scrutiny into his attainments, should receive, instead of the license of the companies, only a certificate from their hands, to the effect that he has passed satisfactorily. This certificate should not qualify to attend upon medical cases, as now granted by the license, but should only render the person possessing it eligible to present himself for examination on anatomy, physiology, and surgery at the Colleges of Surgeons. Having obtained their diploma, by passing this extended investigation into his medical knowledge, he may, by presenting that document, claim the right to be registered and recognized as a qualified medical practitioner, with the power of making and recovering a regulated charge for visits and attendance, of holding any public medical appointment, and of practising his art, not limited by the divisions of the kingdom, but throughout all the British dominions.

By these means no person will be enabled to exercise the art and science of a surgeon, as he can at present, by the rules of the College of Surgeons, London, without having undergone any test

by examination of his knowledge of medicine, midwifery, chemistry, botany, materia medica, medical jurisprudence, or the classics, and also no person will be permitted to practise medicine, without a knowledge of surgery, as now sanctioned by the Apothecaries' Company.

4th Object. To remove the right of conferring medical degrees from every institution that now exercises that privilege, unless the parties presenting themselves for examination for the higher honour and distinction are registered medical practitioners, and have passed at the Apothecaries' Hall and College of Surgeons. The degree of Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine, as indicating greater attainments, and a more searching examination, will then be a title of honour, and much prized; a similarity to the academical distinctions granted by other institutions will prevail, where the titles consequent upon success at the examinations are uniform and regularly progressive; the Bachelor and Master of Arts, degrees invariably preceding that of the Bachelor and Doctor of Law and Divinity, the usual custom not consisting in bestowing the highest honour, unless the inferior degrees have been first acquired; the very reverse being the practice with the Medical Institutions.

5th Object. The College of Physicians, except under special circumstances, should only admit to examination for their license to practice as physicians, candidates who have obtained the degrees of Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine. That institution will then take the rank of the First Medical Corporation; and its members being the best educated and the most examined, will justly be considered the most learned medical body in the British empire.

NOTE.—Since the publication of the first edition of this letter, Mr. Bell, the member for St. Alban's, has introduced into parliament a Bill, to establish a College of Pharmacy, for examining and registering chemists and druggists; but the functions proposed by the honorable member for that college, as suggested by Mr. Hume, M.P., could be much better performed by the Apothecaries' Company, to establish another medical college, with a fresh batch of additional examiners; would only aggravate the evil, under which the medical body now labours, a single

medical faculty, similar to that at Paris, having many advocates among the profession, and if it were not for the influence possessed, and difficulties made, on account of existing medical institutions, would most likely be the one adopted in this country, where, it is very generally admitted, that the medical institutions and examiners, instead of being too few, are already too many. The original duties of the Apothecaries' Company consisted in overlooking the proceedings of the apothecaries, or compounders of medicines, *id est*., chemists and druggists of the present day, and the most convenient and appropriate use that can be made of that Company will be, to restore it to its first and legitimate use, but crippled of its subsequently acquired power of licensing to general medical practice. Long before 1815, the Apothecaries' Company existed, with powers of inspection over, and of regulating the acts of chemists and druggists, *i.e.*, apothecaries; the colleges of physicians, and surgeons, also existed, but a large intermediate class of nondescripts, like commanders, R.N., in line-of-battle ships, had sprung up, viz., medical men, in general practice supplying their own medicine, and attending to both medical and surgical cases, who being neither chemists, *i.e.*, apothecaries, or physicians, or surgeons, but a mixture of all three—then evaded the operation of the laws (medical) and escaped all examinations, or scrutiny into their actions, to overcome this evil, a society of medical gentlemen was originated, which endeavoured to enlist the College of Surgeons, London, by extending its examination beyond surgery, to take under its charge, this, which had become the largest class of practitioners; but then as now, that college declined to have anything to do with medicine, etc., the consequence was, that this Society was driven against their inclinations, to the Apothecaries' Company for help, which company co-operated with them, and together succeeded in obtaining the Act of 1815. Although the Apothecaries' Company has done its duty in enlarging the basis of medical education, and thereby increased the attainments of medical men, the alliance has never been, and is to this day not appreciated by the profession, and is to many distasteful, in consequence of its being a Trading Company. They do not consider that Retailers of Jalap, Rhubarb,

and Genuine Curry Powder, like the Apothecaries' Company, are the most fitting instruments to preside over a body of gentlemen who should be appreciated only for their educational and professional abilities

6th Object. The medical profession being an educated and intelligent body of gentlemen, it seems but proper that they should have in their own institutions the benefit of the representative principle and responsible management; but as the majority of the members are much dispersed throughout the country, and abroad, and cannot take any part in the elections, in the first instance it may be found for every desired purpose, a sufficient extension of the suffrage that two vacancies out of every three in the Council should rest with the Fellows, and one with the Members.

NOTE.—It is not believed that any form of popular election would make a better or perhaps even so good a selection, as has hitherto composed the Council and Examiners of the College of Surgeons, London, the very eminence of that body is now the great obstacle to medical reform, and it can scarcely be expected that they can be true to the oaths they have taken of upholding all the rights and privileges of the College, and at the same time introduce measures that will sweep them away, and bring down surgery; which they have sworn to promote and advance to a level with medicine, midwifery, &c. The profession must abandon the idea of obtaining the concessions they require from the Colleges, they must make a simultaneous and united effort by petitions, upon the Houses of Parliament, and when the Home Secretary finds them more agreed upon any measure, the College of Surgeons, will then be unable to resist the pressure from without and must give way. The Board of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Company have been the very reverse of the College of Surgeons, they have been composed of no first-rate men, and no form of popular election would ever have made so undistinguished a selection, the professors, at the schools to my knowledge, were in the habit of telling their pupils, that they need not extend their studies to the latest discoveries for the Hall, it being well

known, that the Examiners there, were always in the rear of the advancements of the day.

7th Object. Besides compelling the chemist and druggist to pass an examination, it may be expedient that only a limited number, but sufficient for the wants of the public, should be permitted in each district, and then licensed by the Magistracy, who should retain the power of withdrawing their license, upon representations from proper medical inspectors, to be appointed by the Apothecaries' Companies, that they adulterate or sell inferior drugs and chemicals, or prescribe in medical and surgical cases. Every person may be considered a competent judge of the ordinary articles of food and clothing, though few can distinguish good from bad medicines. By this ignorance generally prevailing, it is made a necessary evil that a close inspection should be exercised over all the practices of the dispensers of medicines and prescriptions. Universal free trade must be productive of benefit in most articles, though not so in medicines; for under that system, by the preparation of prescriptions and medical recipes, a profit or tax is levied, to the public disadvantage, varying from 300 to 1,000 per cent. by the chemists and druggists, and which may be prevented by bringing that business under the influence of a well-regulated and restrictive monopoly.

8th Object. For the suppression of quackery, the stamp-duty on their nostrums should be doubled, and the advertisements and placards of the demoralizing class,—as Messrs. Perry and Co., &c., &c.,—should be prohibited from insertion in the public journals, and from distribution in the streets and all public places.

9th Object. To abolish the practice of signing by the professors and teachers, the certificates of students, that they have diligently attended their lectures, these are based on fraud and falsehood, and signed as a matter of form; and I know, from my own experience and that of others, that they are obtained without attending a single lecture; but instead, to substitute an examination of their class at the end of each session, granting certificates to those who have made a certain proficiency, and to the effect that they have answered correctly two-thirds of the questions; a rejection might

then afford a salutary warning, by teaching them their deficiency, and thereby inculcate the necessity of habits of greater diligence and exertion; and if not capable or inclined to apply the labour that is requisite for success, it may determine them at an early period, and before much expense has been incurred, to abandon a profession so sacred and responsible in its character, and exacting in its demands on the mental capacities, talents, and attainments of its members.

Whatever reforms may be introduced, a prudent policy dictates that all vested rights and privileges, which have been the growth of a long course of bad legislation, should be respected, it is not to be supposed that the fruits of reform can be reaped by the present generation of medical men, who must rest satisfied with having secured to them every right and qualification they are now in possession of, and that only, leaving the benefits for their successors.

Any attempt to unite into harmony the discord that now prevails amongst the profession, by giving an equality of privileges to all its members, will lead to such an outburst of opposition as must ensure the certain rejection of any measure, however excellent its provisions may be; this is the rock upon which Sir James Graham's Registration Bill mainly foundered, enabling, as the greater part of the profession in England supposed it would, a large influx of Scotch Graduates, and Members of the Colleges of Surgeons from all parts of the kingdom, now excluded, to Register, and upon that registration to secure a qualification to which they had not previously been entitled.

ON MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

As some measure of Legislative relief is sought for, and admitted by all parties to be requisite, it is incumbent upon the Legislature, as an essential preliminary to any great change, that all the members of the medical profession, with their qualifications, should be first registered, I therefore beg leave to submit that a well or-

ganized plan of Medical Registration, for the protection of the public against unqualified practice, may be most effectually carried out by the establishment of an office similar in every respect to the Registration-office to which I am attached; the arrangements there pursued, and perfected by an experience of some years' duration over a much larger body, being most admirably adapted for securing the registration of all the medical men, with a British qualification, in the United Kingdom and its Colonies. The office to be called, the General Register and Record-office of Practitioners in Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, including Apprentices, Pupils, and Students. No qualifications whatever will be granted by this office, though the rights which the prior qualifications have bestowed cannot be exercised or enforced without they appear, and have been registered on its books. Its principal object will consist in making and keeping a register of the names of every medical man, and of the medical corporations to which they have been admitted members, with their ages, birth-place, &c. It will also preserve a record of their place of residence, and of the branch of the profession they are practising; and, in addition, it will furnish an interesting and accurate statistic of their number, rate of increase, mortality, &c. &c.

In order to carry out these objects, the first process that will be required consists in the applicant filling up a printed Claim-paper, supplied by the office, which will be similar to that in use by candidates for the Army Medical Service, and must contain a statement of his studies and qualifications, to be transmitted when completed, to the Registration-office, accompanied with a declaration, made before and signed by a justice of the peace, as to its correctness; this must be confirmed by the testimony of at least two respectable parties, that they have been acquainted with the applicant as a medical man, practising in their neighbourhood for at least two years, or by other documentary evidence.

This Claim-paper (which may be further verified by a reference to the books of the medical corporations of which they there allege themselves to belong), on being completed to the satisfaction of the Registrar, will entitle the applicant to a certificate of registration.

The registration certificate should be of an elegant design, with a distinguishing number, and arranged on the principle of a banker's check-book. It should be issued through the medium of the medical corporations and the principal officers of the Inland Revenue Department, to convenience the members of the profession, and should consist of two portions, both to be signed by the applicant. It should also bear the signatures of the authorized parties attached to the office from whence it is issued, in whose presence the applicant who is entitled to the certificate portion must, if possible, produce his Diploma, or License, and attach his signatures; the other portion, marked Office counterpart, is then separated from the certificate at the *foil*, and with the Claim-paper and declaration annexed, should be returned to the Registration-office; and from the information thereby obtained, combined with annual returns from the profession, containing an account of the branch they cultivate, their pupils, apprentices, and respective places of abode, will the system of registration be carried out, and the genuineness of the certificate authenticated.

Any person who fraudulently alters or makes use of any certificate which has not been legally issued to him, or to which he has not been entitled, or does not place it in some conspicuous part of his surgery or dwelling, or refuses to produce it when demanded, should be liable to a prosecution for a misdemeanour, or to be summarily punished before a magistrate by a penalty of £50, or by imprisonment for three months; and any person who refuses to deliver up a certificate which has been cancelled or suspended, should be liable to the like summary punishment.

NOTE.—It is not intended by these penalties, to enforce them upon all persons, who might prescribe a remedy; but if medical titles are openly assumed, which parties are not authorized to bear, and they then prescribe, they should in every instance be proceeded against for the penalties, the Registration Office, in the name of the Registrar, being the prosecutors for the public, who are now defrauded in great numbers by medical pretenders; in the Kent Road, there is one, who prefixes doctor to his name, and adds surgeon, being neither the one nor the other. Near Edinburgh, I

have heard of an exactly similar instance, and lately another nearly similar has occurred in the disgraceful case of Mr. H. Gray Smythe, of Lambeth, who for some years had called himself Surgeon, without being qualified; the Council of College of Surgeons, London, through their secretary, Mr. Belfour, in the *Times* and other papers, instantly repudiated his being a member, or having any connection with the College; but if their duties had been properly performed, and the interests of their members protected as they ought to have been, this imposition upon the public would not have been practised with impunity for so many years.

The registration for distinguishing the educated and qualified from the uneducated and unqualified medical practitioner being completed, the time and opportunity will have arrived convenient for the appointment of a Council of Health, to be composed of medical gentlemen, with the Secretary of State for the Home Department as its President, for advising with the Government upon sanitary measures, to overlook the registration-office, universities, colleges, and medical schools, to withdraw or suspend certificates, and to institute and conduct prosecutions. The medical profession being by these means elevated into the dignity of a department of the State, communicating with the Government, it will be the bounden duty of that department, as expressing its wants and desires, to bring forward the reforms that are needful for its amelioration, and whatever they propose as emanating from an authorized and competent source, may be expected to meet with the cordial support and approval of the profession and the public.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

EMERITUS.

CUSTOM HOUSE,

London, Feb. 1851.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF ENGLAND, ARE—

IN LONDON :

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. St. Bartholomew's Hospital. | 7. St. George's Hospital. |
| 2. Charing Cross ,, | 8. Westminster ,, |
| 3. Guy's ,, | 9. King's College. |
| 4. St. Thomas ,, | 10. University College. |
| 5. London ,, | 11. Hunterian School of Me- |
| 6. Middlesex ,, | dicine. |

IN THE PROVINCES :

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Queen's Col., Birmingham. | 6. Newcastle. |
| 2. York. | 7. Bristol. |
| 3. Liverpool. | 8. Leeds. |
| 4. Manchester. | 9. Sheffield. |
| 5. 2nd Medical School Man- | 10. Hull. |
| chester. | 11. Sydenham Col. Birmingham |

IN SCOTLAND :

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. University of Edinburgh. | 5. University and King's Col- |
| 2. Surgeons' Hall, ditto. | lege, Aberdeen. |
| 3. University of Glasgow. | 6. Marischal College and Uni- |
| 4. Anderson's University, | versity, Aberdeen. |
| Glasgow. | |

IN IRELAND :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. School of the Royal College | 3. Queen's College, Cork. |
| of Surgeons. | 4. Queen's College, Galway. |
| 2. Dublin School of Medicine. | |

Lectures Compulsory upon Students to enter.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Anatomy Practical | } With Hospital, Medi-
cal, and Surgical
Practice. |
| 2. Anatomy and Physiology | |
| 3. Practice of Physic | |
| 4. Midwifery | |
| 5. Surgery | |
| 6. Chemistry | |
| 7. Practical Chemistry | |
| 8. Botany | |
| 9. Materia Medica & Therapeutics | |

Non-Compulsory. (Army Medical Service excepted.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Comparative Anatomy. | 3. Natural History. |
| 2. Morbid Anatomy. | 4. Military Surgery. |

Until within a few years Lecturing was the method universally adopted for instructing medical students, some of the schools have now added with advantage, the Tutorial System of the English Universities. The majority of the schools limit their instruction to professional subjects, the moral and religious health of their pupils not being promoted by the use of any means, provided for in that direction. King's College, London, was the first to make provision for religious exercises, which has since been followed by other medical schools—Queen's College, Birmingham, &c., &c.

If the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge had not deserted their post, and neglected to keep up the reputation of their Medical Schools, this important subject, which they boast so much of attending to, would not have been disregarded in the education of medical students.

The Army, Navy, Ordnance, and East India Company, have a curriculum of study for their medical officers slightly differing from each other, and from that ordered for the public; but they all agree in not placing confidence in the efficiency of the examinations instituted by any of the medical corporations. They require their candidates to be re-examined by some individual of their so called medical boards, which is sometimes an examination, and as often a medical conversation; this is too great a power to be exercised with impartiality by one person, and throws discredit upon the capability of the constituted medical examiners, where no mistrust should be. The diploma of the London College of Surgeons is received as partially satisfactory, by the united services, with the exception of the Ordnance Department, which very properly requires both the Hall and College qualification to be in the possession of all candidates for their medical appointments.

TO THE

MEDICAL PROFESSION.

GENTLEMEN,

THAT invaluable measure for preventing Shipwrecks, and disasters at sea, by raising the standard of professional and moral qualifications of the Masters, and Mates, in the Merchant Navy, viz., (the Mercantile Marine Bill of the Right Honble. H. Labouchere, Esq., M.P.), the President of the Board of Trade, may not be so well known or appreciated by the members of your Profession, as it would be, if they were more acquainted with its excellent provisions; but having been placed in a position favorable for observing its operation, it has wrought the conviction, that its principles might be applied with equal advantages to medical government. Its principal aim, is to obtain competent masters and mates in the Mercantile Marine, by enforcing a strict and compulsory examination upon every one engaged for the first time in those capacities, in the foreign trade, after the 1st January, 1851, under its provisions, certificates of competency are issued from one fountain head only although there are several Examining Boards, if they are not produced before the shipping master, when

obtaining a crew, and his certificate procured and shown to the officers of Customs, they would detain the ship and prevent its proceeding to sea; a similar scrutiny, equally as necessary, is not yet extended to the surgeons of ships compelled to carry them, no provision has been made on this necessary head, and the Customs are not authorized to enquire into the qualifications of the medical officers, or even to ascertain that they can show a more satisfactory testimonial, than the insufficient diploma of the London College of Surgeons; provision has been made in the Mercantile Marine Bill, for appointing proper medical inspectors of medicines and medical stores, but from some unknown cause, they have not yet been appointed, and an incompetent tide waiter remains the examiner of the medicine chest.

By this Bill of 1851, the Mercantile Marine is placed in the same position as prevails in France, and is made a department of the State, under the President of the Board of Trade, and a Marine Board to advise with him, composed of one post captain from the Royal Navy, and one captain from the East Indian Merchant Service. It will be found on investigation that this department has originated from the registration of its mariners, the voluntary, and at length the compulsory examination of the officers in foreign going ships, to be followed, we may hope, by the establishment of an Institution, worthy of this great maritime country, in which, its continuously foreign going seamen, when worn out by old age, or disabled in the service by accidents, (as their lives have been full of peculiar hardships, double dangers, and social deprivations) will be made objects of national sympathy, solicitude and care.

You are now, Gentlemen, in the position of a ship without a rudder or compass, without organization, and without co-operation, and having no acknowledged HEAD ; is the only, and at the best, but a poor excuse for the neglect, of not having been specially convened, to express even your thanks, to Mr. Warburton Sir De Lacey Evans, and Captain Boldero, for what they have done in the House of Commons for your Order, and for the unfortunate assistant surgeons in the Royal Navy, who seldom enter the service before they are twenty-two years of age and are, rarely removed from the Cockpit, and the Society of Boys, more wild, and greater lovers of skylarking than most boys generally are or they would not be sailors ; before they are thirty-five years of age, for whose amelioration, your slowly sympathizing medical and surgical *Colleges* never led the way, but only followed in the van, and never would, if they had not lately been aroused from their lethargy by proceedings elsewhere. For twenty years, in my remembrance, medical reform, has been more or less in constant agitation : there have been committees of the House of Commons on the subject over and over again, abundance of evidence for legislation has been collected, but no legislative measures have resulted ; owing to every Secretary of State for the Home Department, from your disunion and conflicting statements being unable to fathom or comprehend, what, the great bulk of the Profession demands. As the time is now pronounced to be ripe for medical reform, by the chairman of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association ; strive to be more united, take a lesson from what has taken place with respect to the Mercantile Marine Bill, and your dues by instalments ; make an effort for medical registration in the first instance, and the appointment of a medical board under the

Secretary of State for the Home Department, to regulate medical education, and the medical colleges, and you will find, it will not then be long, before just and upright laws are introduced and passed for the government of your profession, and you will be enabled soon to cease your complaint, that you are neither protected by your own medical institutions, by the law, nor by the public, in furtherance of that object, the provisions and operation of the Mercantile Marine Bill have in part been set forth, and an abstract of a proposed Medical Registration Bill, founded on the provisions of that measure, are submitted to your attention by your obedient servant,

J. ROBERTSON,

3rd Class Clerk,

Naval Department,

Board of Trade,

London, Jan. 20th, 1852.

By the rules of the Naval Service, every Officer in the Ward Room, is eligible for admission at the age of twenty, with the exception of the Medical, who must wait three years longer, before he can obtain an entrance; this unjust exclusion operates to the injury of the Navy, makes its medical department unpopular with the Profession, and drives away all but the necessitous from the Service.

18

ABSTRACT
OF A
PROPOSED GENERAL
MEDICAL REGISTRATION BILL.

A Preliminary ACT for the improvement and protection of all persons engaged in practising Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacy, and for keeping a register of such persons.

WHEREAS, the safety and security of the Public Preamble.
health of this United Kingdom, and Her Majesty's dominions, do greatly depend upon a constant and ready supply of well-educated and efficiently instructed persons, in Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, and it is therefore expedient to afford them all due encouragement, by making provision for ascertaining their number and qualifications, previous to consolidating the laws for their regulation and improvement, and it is also expedient to keep a register of such qualified persons, for the information and protection of the public against fraudulent pretenders. Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same.

Interpretation.

1. That this Act may be cited as the General Medical Registration Act.

2. And be it enacted, that in the construction of this Act, the preceding, and following words and expressions, shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them (that is to say)—

Persons practising Medicine, shall include all Licentiates and Fellows of the Colleges of Physicians, all Medical Graduates of the Universities in the United Kingdom.

Persons practising Surgery, shall include all Members, Licentiates, and Fellows of the Colleges of Surgeons, and Apothecaries' Companies in the United Kingdom, and all persons in practice before 1815.

Persons practising Pharmacy, shall include all persons exercising the business or calling of Pharmaceutical Chemists, Chemists and Druggists, or Dispensing Chemists, and all Visiting and Dispensing, or Dispensing Assistants, exceeding twenty-one years of age, (not pupils or apprentices) who have passed no recognized examination.

The expression United Kingdom shall include England, Ireland, and Scotland.

Home Office.
New duties &
powers generally.

3. And be it enacted that the Secretary of State for the Home Department, shall undertake the general superintendence of matters relating to the registration of every person practising medicine, surgery, or pharmacy, and shall be authorized to carry this Act into execution, and to enforce by legal proceedings or by such other lawful means, as may seem expedient, the provisions of this Act, relating to the art and science, business or calling, of medicine, surgery and pharmacy.

Maintenance of
a General Register and Record Office.

4. And be it enacted, that as soon as can be, after the passing of this Act, for the purpose of forming and maintaining a register of all persons practising Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, there shall be established in the British metropolis, an office, to be called the General Register and Record Office of Practitioners in Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, which shall consist of a registrar, and such assistants and clerks with such salaries as shall be fixed and regulated from time to time by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

ment, and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may make any alteration in the payment and salaries of the registrar, his assistants and clerks, and may regulate the salaries to be paid to them, or to any other person for performing any of his or their containing duties.

Maintenance of
a General Re-
gister and Re-
cord Office.

5. And be it enacted, that the Secretary of State for the Home Department, shall nominate four proper persons to form a Medical Board, to assist him in the execution of this Act, and may from time to time remove and replace them, and appoint an annual salary (to be derived from registration fees) not exceeding three hundred pounds to each of them.

New Officers

6. And be it enacted, that the Medical Board shall be so constituted, that one member shall be a graduate of some English university, or a qualified physician, surgeon, or apothecary in England, or in practice before 1815. That a second member, shall be a graduate of a Scotch university, or a qualified physician, or surgeon, in Scotland. Third member shall be a graduate of some Irish university, or a qualified physician, surgeon, or apothecary, in Ireland. Fourth member shall be a pharmaceutical chemist, chemist and druggist, or dispensing chemist, of at least fifteen years' standing. And be it also enacted, that all the members forming the Board thus constituted, shall be resident in London or within ten miles.

Constitution of
Medical Board

7. And be it enacted, that the Medical Board by and with the advice and consent of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, shall sanction forms of the several documents which shall be required for carrying out this Act, and shall cause all such forms as are hereby required to be sanctioned to be prepared and issued as hereinafter-mentioned and to be sealed with the seal of the Home Office, or to be marked with some other distinguishing mark to be devised and employed for that purpose, and no document to be required to be in a form so sanctioned, shall be admissible in evidence unless the same purports to be so sealed or marked.

Medical Board
to sanction and
issue Forms.

Penalty for
forgery of Seal
and fraudulent
alteration of
Form.

For not using
Forms issued
by the Board.

Registration
Certificates
how to be pro-
cured.

Medical Col-
leges and Pub-
lic Function-
aries to assist
Medical Board

8. And be it enacted, that every person who forges or procures to be forged or assists in forging such seal or other distinguishing mark as aforesaid, or who fraudulently alters, or procures to be altered, or assists in altering any form issued by the Medical Board with the view of evading any of the provisions of this Act, or any condition contained in such form for each offence shall either be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, or shall be liable summarily to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds, or to imprisonment not exceeding three months, as the justice or court hearing the case may think fit, and every person who in any case in which a form sanctioned by the Board of Trade, is hereby required, without reasonable excuse uses any form not purporting to be so sanctioned, or who sells, buys, or uses any document purporting to be a form so sanctioned, or not to have been prepared and issued by the Medical Board, shall for each offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

9. And be it enacted, that every person practising medicine, surgery, and pharmacy, shall and is hereby required to provide himself with a registration certificate, and for that purpose must apply to the registrar, or at places hereinafter-mentioned for the requisite forms. And the Medical Board shall deliver or cause to be delivered to every such applicant who is reported by the registrar to have given satisfactory evidence of his qualifications by having passed a medical examination, or examinations, a Certificate of Competency, upon payment of a fee of five shillings, and to every pharmaceutical chemist, visiting and dispensing, or dispensing assistant, who have passed no recognized examination, a Certificate of Service upon payment of a fee of three shillings.

10. And be it enacted, that all the respective medical corporations, superintendent registrars of births, deaths and marriages, and principal officers of the Inland Revenue Department in the United Kingdom, are hereby authorized and required to assist the Medical Board and Registrar, in issuing the aforesaid forms and registration certificates to all persons practising in their districts medicine, surgery, and pharmacy, who apply for, and are entitled to receive them.

11. And be it enacted, that all District Registrars of births, deaths, and marriages shall, and they are hereby required to demand from the person registering the death of any person practising Medicine, Surgery, or Pharmacy, the Registration Certificate of such person, and when delivered to any such Registrar, he shall forthwith transmit the same to the Registrar in London -- with the cause of death, and no person excepting the said Registrar, shall retain the Registration Certificate of a deceased party; and if any person shall retain any such Registration Certificate for more than twenty-one days after the death of any such party, they shall be liable to a penalty, not exceeding five pounds in respect of every such Registration Certificate so detained.

Registration
Certificates of
parties dead.

Penalty for
Certificates not
transmitted.

12. And be it enacted, that every person who shall apply for a Registration Certificate, and shall give in writing, a false answer to any reasonable question in the forms authorized and sanctioned by the Medical Board, with reference to the granting of such Registration Certificates, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour; and any person becoming possessed of a Registration Certificate, other than that legally issued to him, shall forthwith transmit the same to the Registrar; and in case of default, he shall, for every such offence forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds.

False return of
Forms for Cer-
tificates a mis-
demeanour.

Penalty of 20*l*.
if Registration
Certificate be
not transmitted

13. And be it enacted, that all persons practising Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, who shall neglect to apply for, and transmit the authorized form of claim for obtaining a Certificate of Competency, or Certificate of Service after the 31st December, 1852, shall pay a fine of two pounds, unless prevented by absence from the country, or some other unavoidable necessity.

Fines for neg-
lecting to apply
in time.

14. And be it enacted, that the surplus money arising from penalties under the act, fines, and fees for Registration Certificates, after making provision for the salaries of the Medical Board, shall be devoted to rewards for encouraging and promoting emulation among the students of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy; as the Secretary of State for the home department, and the Medical Board may direct.

Surplus Fees.
Fines, and pen-
alties, applica-
tion of.

15. And be it enacted, that every person practising Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, shall deliver or cause to be delivered, on or before 30th June in each year, a *Return* to the Registrar, according to a form to be issued and sanctioned by the Medical Board, which shall contain an account of his place of abode and of the branch of the profession he is cultivating; together with an account of his assistants, pupils, and apprentices.

Annual Re-
turns to be de-
livered.

Penalty for default.

16. And be it enacted, that all persons practising Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, who shall neglect or omit to deliver to such Registrar, any such annual return as required by this act, he shall for every such neglect, omission, or offence forfeit and pay the sum of ten pounds.

Penalty on persons whose names do not appear on the Register after January, 1853.

17. And be it enacted, that all persons practising Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, whose names and qualifications do not appear on the Register six weeks after the 30th January, 1853, or in the annual Returns, as pupils and apprentices, shall be liable (subject to the discretion of the Medical Board) to all the rules, regulations, and examinations for adjusting and improving the practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Pharmacy, which may be introduced, with the advice and recommendation of the Medical Board, by the Secretary of State for the home department, in the then, or subsequent Session of Parliament.